SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPA,PERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,

OUDH, CENTRAL PROVINCES, CENTRAL INDIA, AND RAJPUTANA, Received up to 22nd February, 1883.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The Koh-i-Nér (Lahore), of the 17th February, states

Certain concessions asked for the native doctors tors of the Panjáb intend to forward of the Panjáb.

a memorial to the Panjáb Government asking for certain concessions. (1) The pay of the native doctors of the first class should be raised to Rs. 100 per mensem. (2) All native doctors, whether in military or civil employ, should be admitted to the Viceroy's and the Lieutenant-Governor's darbars. (3) Formerly they were called native doctors, and now they are called hospital assistants. They desire that in future they should be called sub-assistant surgeons. All their requests are reasonable, and we hope that the Panjáb Government will accede to their wishes without waiting for the memorial.

The same paper states that the whole native public is of
The renewal of licenses opinion that the Arms Act should be
issued under Arms Act for
the sale of arms in the
Panjab. for reasons best known to itself, deemed
it expedient to do so. Now it would seem that some of the

Circulation, 440 copies.

provisions of that Act are not strictly enforced by district officers in the Panjáb. Those persons, who sell arms and ammunition, have not yet renewed their licenses for the current year, but no notice has been taken of the matter by the police or the Magistrates. If the district officers consider any sections of the Act as unnecessary and vexatious to the people, they should have them expunged from the Act, but they are by no means justified in neglecting to enforce them as long as they are not repealed.

Circulation, 100 copies.

A correspondent of the Shokh-i-Oudh (Lucknow), of the 16th February, states that it appears The proposed publication of a new paper, called from an advertisement published in the Aftab-i-Hind, in Persome Indian papers that a new paper, sia. called the Aftab-i-Hind, is about to be started in Persia by one Aqá Saiyid Husain of Shiráz, under the patronage of the The paper is intended to publish Persian Government. extracts from native papers of India. There seems to be ne doubt that this project has been set on foot at the instigation of Russia. Obviously she has devised this plan as a simple and cheap means of obtaining information about the state of things in this country. The establishment of a Russian agent here would create suspicion in the mind of the British Government and also involve comparatively large But the publication of the paper in quesexpenditure. tion will not cost much. The editor of the Aftáb-i-Hind will be able to get native papers in exchange for his paper. It is a matter of surprise that Government has taken no notice of this matter. The Hon'ble Mr. Gladstone is an advocate of the peace-at-any-price policy. If any man talks of war, he threatens to resign his office. While he is thus bent on peace, Russians are busy at their intrigues. Now it should be observed that natives are frequently killed by Englishmen, and the accused are acquitted by English judges through race feeling. When Russians and other pations come to know of such cases through native papers, it is not difficult to realize what will be their feeling

about British rule in this country. If Russians were induced to interfere in behalf of natives, as they did on behalf of Bulgarians and Servians, the British Government would be exposed to great danger. Moreover, the Aftáb-i-Hind is sure to criticize the acts and measures of the Government of India, and to express sympathy with natives. The circulation of such a paper among natives will not fail to create love in their minds towards Russians. It is to be hoped that Government will take early action in the matter and prohibit native editors from sending their papers to the editor of the Persian paper in question.

The Mumtasu-l-Akhbar (Bára Banki), of the 16th February, refers to a case of police tor-A case of police torture. The sub-inspector of police at Nawábganj (Bára Banki), the havildár, and a constable lately severely tortured a man of the Pasi caste to extort a confession of guilt from him. He criminally prosecuted them, and the result was that the sub-inspector was sentenced to a fine of Rs. 50 and to rigorous imprisonment for one month, the havildar to a fine of Rs. 25 and imprisonment for twentyfour hours, and the constable to a fine of Rs. 10 and imprisonment for twenty-four hours. The police are accustomed to oppress the people. Steps should be taken to check the evil.

A correspondent of the Mufid-i-Am (Agra), of the 20th February, complains that adulterated The sale of adulterated articles of food. drugs and articles of food, such as meat ghi, milk, &c., are generally sold by attars (native druggists) and traders, and remarks that the prevalence of sickness is due to the use of these adulterated things. The Local Government should adopt some measures to check the evil.

Circulation, 200 copies.

The dismissal of some clerks employed in the office of the Surgeon-General of the N.-W. P. and

A local correspondent of the Oudh Punch (Lucknow); of the 13th February, complains that Dr. Walker, the new Surgeon-General of the N.-W. P. and Oudh, has recently given notice to the head-

Circulation. 524 copies.

clerk of his office that his services are not required. He is of opinion that the head-clerk of the Inspector-General of Prisons' office can do the work of both the offices! The head-clerk of the Inspector-General of Prisons' office should be also made head-clerk of the Lunatic Asylums. A large saving would be effected if all the offices, situated at Chatar Manzil at Lucknow, were placed in the charge of one officer and one head-clerk. Dr. Walker has also ordered nine other men of his office to pass the middle class examination under pain of dismissal, in accordance with Government Circular of 1879. Some of these men entered the public service before the issue of that circular, and therefore that circular does not apply to them at all. As regards others, who were appointed after the issue of that circular, it would be hard on them to dismiss them. If they perform their duties satisfactorily, they should not be dismissed, simply because they have not passed the examination in question. There are many other public offices in which the provisions of the Government circular are not strictly observed.

Circulation, 175 copies. The Shula-i-Túr (Cawnpore), of the 20th February, states

Extension of Lord Ripon's term of office. at Bombay and other places to consider the question of sending memorials to Her Majesty, praying for the extension of Lord Ripon's term of office, and asks the natives of these provinces to forward similar memorials.

Circulation, 209 copies.

A Hindú correspondent of the Lawrence Gazette (Meerut),

The prevalence of an evil custom among natives in connection with marriage.

of the 14th February, states that Government has put down the evil customs of sati, infanticide, slave-trade, &c., but that an evil custom in connec-

tion with marriage is still prevalent among some classes of people, both among the Hindús and Musalmáns, especially the former. Some men take large sums of money from the men to whom they marry their daughters in return for the marriage. Some of them marry their daughters six or seven years old to men sixty or seventy years old for the sake of money.

The husbands of the girls soon die, and then the girls have to pass their lives in a state of forced widowhood. This is nothing but a sort of slave trade. It behoves Government to interfere and prohibit the custom.

The Gurmukhi Akhbár (Lahore), of the 17th February, calls upon the Sikh sardárs to adopt The improvement measures for the improvement of the the moral and intellectual condition of Sikhs. moral and mental condition of the Sikh community. A meeting was held about three years ago at Amritsar to consider the subject, but it is to be regretted that no practical results followed. A college should be established for the education of the Sikhs. About five lakhs of rupees are required for the purpose. It would not be difficult for the leaders of the Sikh community to raise this sum. Even if half the sum were collected by public subscriptions, it would be possible to establish the proposed college, because in that case the Government is sure to give a grant-in-aid. Moreover, arrangements should be made to translate good books of other languages into Gurmukhi.

The same paper, in regard to the progress of education in the Panjáb. the Panjáb, remarks that only the official classes have benefited by education, but that the other classes are still as indifferent to education as ever. Instruction is given only through Urdú, and not through Gurmukhi, at Government schools, and this is a great hindrance to popular education in the province.

The supply of copies that a native paper of Bombay is of Selections from vernacular newspapers to native editors.

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should be supplied to native editors in order that they may be able to judge whether translations are properly made.

The Mumtazu-l-Akhbar (Bara Banki), of the 16th February, states that some persons, looking at The miserable condithe large number of ejectments and resigtion of the agricultural classes in Oudh. nations, the enhancement of rent, &c., fancy that land-holders oppress the cultivators in a variety of ways, and that the miserable condition of the agricultural classes is due to this alleged tyranny and oppression. But it should be observed that the interests of landlords and their tenants are identical. The prosperity of the former depends on that of the latter. Under these circumstances it is difficult to realize that the former should seek to ruin the The zamindárs never unjustly eject tenants from their The number of resignations has largely increased lands. during the last three years since the Government has evinced a desire to bestow some rights on cultivators. They largely resign their holdings in order to lead the Government to imagine that they are really oppressed by landlords. There

are also some other causes of these resignations, which will be referred to on a future occasion. The advocates of cultivators complain of heavy assessments of rent, simply by comparing the rent formerly levied on a particular piece of land to that levied now on the same land. But this is not the

right way of judging of rent. In judging of the rent levied on any tract of land, we should look at the present condition

of that land.

LEGISLATION.

Circulation, 250 copies.

The Benares Gazette, of the 18th February, states that The Criminal Procedure the opinion expressed by the Times Code Amendment Bill. in the matter of the extension of the jurisdiction of Native Magistrates over Europeans shows that even the leaders of the English community at home are not free from prejudice. Race feeling is beyond question a good thing, and even essential for national success, but it ought not to be allowed to degenerate into unjust partiality. Our

contemporary says that, if Native Magistrates in the mufassil are empowered to try Europeans, the latter will be obliged to leave India! Our contemporary is under the impression that justice will not be done to Europeans in the mufassil. But such an assumption is quite gratuitous. The Hon'ble Mr. Ilbert declared in his speech in Council that all Local Government and Administrations were in favour of the proposed change. When Native Magistrates at the presidency towns already exercise criminal jurisdiction over Europeans, there seems to be no reason why the privilege should not be extended to their brethren in the mufassil. There is reason to think that Europeans in India are not so strongly opposed to the scheme as the Times imagines. The Hindu Patriot has quoted some cases in which the Europeans concerned voluntarily waived their right of birth, and submitted to the jurisdiction of Native Magistrates in the mufassil. To say nothing of the English Conservative press which opposes all measures of the Liberal Government simply as such, the greatest opposition in this matter may be expected from some narrow-minded old civilians at home, who have retired from the public service, but who still cherish feelings of hatred towards natives. But they may rest assured that their opinion will carry no weight with the Liberal Government. Now that some natives are admitted to the Civil Service every year, and the native Civilians are gradually rising to higher appointments, it is impolitic and unjustifiable to make an invidious distinction between the Europeans and Native members of the service as regards powers. Some mean and narrow minded men fancy that Lord Ripon has resolved to win the good will of natives, even though in his endeavours to do so he may sometimes have to do injustice to his own countrymen ! The fact of the matter is that he looks upon all classes of the people with an eye of equality.

The Akhodr-i-Am (Lahore), of the 14th February, expresses satisfaction at the proposed extension of the jurisdiction of Native

Circulation, 1,800 copies.

Magistrates over Europeans, praises Lord Ripon for it, and remarks that the disability in question, under which Native Judges at present labour, is a great stain on British justice and a kind of dishonour to natives. The removal of this disability will promote the ends of justice and encourage the growth of a friendly feeling between the rulers and the ruled. All Local Governments and Administrations support the measure. (The Beformer (Lahore), of the 19th February, also expreses satisfaction at the proposed change in the law, and remarks that the members of the English and the Anglo-Indian Press are sure to condemn this reform, as they have done other measures of Lord Ripon's Government. The Times of London takes the Supreme Government and Local Governments to task and regards Lord Ripon's policy as dangerous to British rule in India. But, on the contrary, the Reformer thinks that Lord Ripon's policy is strengthening the foundations of British rule).

Circulation, 80 copies.

The Almora Akhbar, of the 18th February, states that Englishmen plume themselves on their justice, but that in matters where their own interests are concerned, they are always ready to sacrifice justice to self-interest. The opposition of the English and the Anglo-Indian Press to the proposed amendment of the Code of Criminal Procedure is simply due to race prejudice. If Englishmen think that in cases, in which Englishmen and natives are concerned, Native Magistrates will show partiality to their own countrymen, the natural inference from this is that English Magistrates show partiality to Englishmen, and natives may on this ground object to be tried by them.

The Hindustani (Lucknow), of the 22nd February, states
that it is proposed to extend the juriss
diction of Native Magistrates over
Europeans only in those districts where there are Sessions
Judges. The editor is of opinion that Native Magistrates in all

Europeans are to be found in every district, especially in Bengal. Moreover, not only Native Civilians but Deputy Collectors and Extra Assistant Commissioners of the first class should be also empowered to try Europeans. Old and experienced Deputy Collectors and Extra Assistant Comissioners decide cases more carefully than European Magistrates.

The Bhárat Sudashá Pravartak (Farukhábád), for Janu-The Agricultural Loans ary, states that it appears from a copy of a Government Resolution, received from the Press Commissioner's office, that the Government of India desires to establish agricultural banks for the benefit of the agricultural population. The scheme is to be first introduced in the Deccan as an experiment. There is no doubt that the miseries of cultivators are chiefly due to the extortions of village Shylocks, and therefore any measure that is intended to make the former independent of the latter cannot but prove beneficial to the former. Major Baring is of opinion that advances should be made on the security of property, as is done in France. But we are afraid that, if such a condition were imposed on the grant of loans, few men would benefit by the measure, because the great majority of the cultivating classes live from hand to mouth and have nothing to offer as security. To our thinking it would be enough to require the cultivators to repay the loans at the next harvest following the issue of the loans. If any man is unable to repay the whole amount at the next harvest for any specialreasons, he may be allowed to repay the balance at the harvest following. It has been proposed to fix the rate of interest at 12 per cent., but this rate would be too high. Even Mahájans might be induced to lend at that rate, and in that case cultivators would prefer to deal with them rather than with agricultural banks, because they are very afraid of dealing with Government. In our opinion, Government should not charge more than 64 per cent. interest. When it borrows at 4 or 41 per cent, it should be ready to lend at 6 or

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64 per cent. Separate banks need not be established at present, but the work may be entrusted to post-offices to save cost.

NATIVE STATES

Circulation, 440 copies.

The Koh-i-Núr (Lahore) publishes a long article in its issues of the 14th and the 17th Feb-Mr. Johnson's death ruary in answer to the remarks made by and the Civil and Military Gazette. the Civil and Military Gazette about the death of Mr. Johnson. Obviously the secret object of the Civil and Military Gazette is to embitter the feelings between the paramount power and the Maharaja of Kashmir. Since his appointment as the Governor of Ladakh Mr. Johnson performed his duties with ability, and the Maharaja was well satisfied with his work and showed great generosity to He was able to deposit lakhs of rupees in the banks at Calcutta. In the extracts, published in the Civil and Military Gazette, from his diary he acknowledged the kindness and generosity of the Mahárájá and the Díwán, but suspected that attempts were being made by his enemies to poison him. Looking at the nature of his office and at his good character, we are disposed to think that he could have made no large number of enemies, and none, at all events, who would go the length of depriving him of his life. The statement that, as soon as his enemies heard that the wood depôt was going to be placed in his charge, they resolved to kill him simply deserves to be laughed to scorn. But it would seem that he was a very simple-hearted man, and his companions had led him to imagine that his life was in danger. During his first illness at Jammu he wrote a memorandum on the 21st January last, in which he expressed such suspicions. Our contemporary says that he escaped this attack. The medical evidence as to the cause of his illness is quite reasonable. As he had lived in Ladakh, which is an extremely cold country, for the last thirteen or fourteen years, the comparatively hot climate of Kashmir did not suit him and made him ill. More-

ever, an excessive use of whiskey had affected his brain. In our opinion he never recovered from his illness of 21st Januar ary, as has been imagined by our contemporary, and the use of wrong food and drink brought about his death. Supposing for argument's sake that he was poisoned on the 21st January, he should have taken greater care of his food since His food was not prepared by State servants, but he himself obtained his food from the bazar. It appears from his own diary that, on the night which preceded his mortal illness, he took his food with his companions and drank whiskey. The bad results of the use of whiskey are well known. If his food or drink had been poisoned, his companions would have also died from the effects of the poison. They are greatly to blame for allowing him to partake of that noxious liquor in such a large measure that night. We should not be surprised if the paragraphs of his diary. in question were forgeries or were dictated to him in his last moments by his scheming companions. As they were aware that the Mahárájá loved him much, they might have apprehended that the State would call for an explanation from them as to the cause of his death. In order to anticipate this and to make his death a means of extorting money from the State, they might have induced him to write the last portion of his diary. It is inconceivable that a man, who is on the point of death, should be able to design such deep plans. There are Englishmen, who ungratefully seek to injure their benefactors, and are bringing their nation into disrepute by their misconduct. It will be remembered that during the late famine in Kashmir an English trader entered into an agreement with the Kashmir Darbar to import twelve lakhs maunds of grain into the country. He subsequently created a difficulty in the matter of transport, and raised a wild clamour againt the State through the columns of the Civil and Military Gazette and some other Anglo-Indian papers. It is to be regretted that Anglo-Indian editors readily publish any thing, however abourd it may be, they hear from

such wicked Englishmen, and the Government gives au easy credence to anything that appears in Anglo-Indian papers. After the death of Mr. Johnson, the Kashmir Darbar sealed the bottle of whiskey, which was supposed to have been poisoned, and kept it in its custody. Our contemporary regards this action of the State as a strong ground for suspicion! Our contemporary would be glad to see the bettle remain in the possession of the son of Mr. Johnson, Russell and Jenkins, in order that they might have an opportunity of mixing some poisonous drugs with the whiskey to get the State into trouble! It is to be observed, however, that the bottle had been for some time in their possession before it was seized by the State officers. It has been sent to the Chemical Examiner at Lahore, and the result will be out in a few days. It is very creditable to Sir Charles Aitchison's Government that it has so soon settled the matter. Dr. Bellew and Colonel St. John at once discovered the true facts. The pastmortem examination, held by the Chemical Examiner, convinced him that the deceased had not been personed. But our contemporary still persists in its hue and cry. Seeing that the charge of poisoning has proved of no avail, Mr. Johnson's adherents have induced his son to claim four lakes and forty thousand rupees from the State on account of arrears of pay, &c. ! At the time of his going on leave Mr. Johnson drew his pay to the end of the month of Katik, 1938 (Sambat year); and gave as receipt to the State. Moreover, his pay was Rs. 1,750 a month, and not Rs. 2,300 as alleged by his son. The Maharaja of Kashmir should expell all wicked English men from his dominions in order to avoid such complications in future. Other native chiefs should also take a warning and give no footing to such "smooth-faced cobras" in their They bite the very hand that feeds them.

Circulation. 210 copies. The Delki Punch (Lahore), of the 14th February, makes
nearly similar remarks on the subject.
The same.

It is evident from medical evidence
that Mr. Johnson died of spoplexy. Before the arrival of

the doctor from Sialket, the doctors of Jammu showed great zeal in his treatment, and he would have been very thankful to them if he had survived. The substance of the extracts from his diary, published in the Civil and Military Gasette, is that the Maharaja and the Diwan were kind to him, but that he had some opponents and that he had been poisoned. The first thing to consider is whether the extracts were written by himself or are mere forgeries. We are induced to think that, if the extracts are not forgeries, he whote them in a state of insanity, caused by illness, or in order to anticipate the dishonour, which the disclosure of his illegal acts, if he had committed any during his tenure of office, might bring on him after his death. The post-morten examination held over his body has shown that he was not poisoned. The Civil and Military Gazette should not have raised the cry of his being poisoned without fully satisfying itself of the truth of the charge. But our Anglo-Indian contemporaries are always ready to bring false charges against native chiefs. Some British officers have gone to Jammu. Have they been deputed by Government to make an enquiry into the matter? It is a matter of deep regret that Lord Ripon and Sir Charles Aitchison should have been deceived by such an absurd clameur and should have distrusted the Mahárájá.

The Kok-i-Núr (Lahore), of the 14th February, expresses
The death of Sir Sálár deep regret at the death of Sir Sálár
Jang.

Jang, and remarks that Government
should have made an enquiry as to the cause of his death.

When it has been thought worth while to hold a post-mortem
examination over the body of Mr. Johnson, although there was
no reasonable ground for supposing that he had been poisoned,
it is surprising that no enquiry was made as to the death of
Sir Sálár Jang, who had many enemies. It is to be hoped that
Government will see that the excellent form of administration
established by the deceased is maintained, and will also look
after the welfare of his sens: (The death of Sir Sálár Jang
has been naticed with deep regret by many vernecular news-

Circulation,

papers this week. The Nyaya Sudha has published an account of his career.)

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Circulation, 850 copies.

The Proyag Samachar (Allahabad), of the 19th February, states that there is a curious class of The Magh Mela at Allahtraders, called chundhars, to be seen at the confluence of the rivers at Allahábád every day. They stand in water breast deep and stir up the sand with their feet in search of valuables. They take out a license, like other traders, from the Magistrate every year and have to pay a fee for it. These so-called traders are great rogues. While they are ostensibly busy raking the sand, they are secretly watching for opportunities to relieve the men and women, bathing in the stream, of their jewellery. No licenses should be granted to these chundhars, and they should be strictly prohibited from frequenting the river during the day. They may, however, be allowed to ply their trade at night. The editor refers to the sale of books by Christian missionaries at the Magh Mela, and is of opinion that, like other book-sellers, they should be required to pay a tax.

Circulation, 750 copies.

A correspondent of the Reformer (Lahore), of the 19th The road from Multan February, states that there is a tank, to Súraj-kund. called Súraj-kund, about four and a quarter miles from Multan. The road from Multan to the tank is in a very neglected state. It is uneven and unmetalled, and no trees are planted along it. At the time of the late fair, held at the tank, the people were exposed to great inconvenience from the dust and the sun. Many carriages broke from the unevenness of the road. The Deputy Commissioner should see to this.

Circulation, 125 copies. It appears from the Bharat Bandhu (Aligarh), of the

16th February, the Oudh Akhbar
The re-admission of Kunwar Shive Nath Singh, who
paid a visit to England, to and the Skula-i-Tur (Cawapore), of
the Hindu community.

the 20th February, that Kunwar Shive

Nath Singh of Bijnor, who lately returned from England, after passing the Barrister-at-law examination, performed some ceremonies last month in accordance with the Hindú religion to expiate the sin of crossing the sea. After he had been purified in this way, his caste-fellows readmitted him into their caste and took their food with him. The Shula-i-Túr hopes that, now that it has been practically shown that a Hindú, who pays a visit to England, can be readmitted to the Hindú community by the performance of some ceremonies, Hindú youths of these provinces will largely go to England to complete their studies.

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

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